

I fully support the tentative conclusion of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in WT Docket No. 16-239 / RM-11708 “that a baud rate restriction has become unnecessary due to advances in modulation techniques, and no longer serves a useful purpose.”

This is also the conclusion of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (ARSFI) and many other amateur radio service operators.

In my opinion, eliminating baud rate restrictions will improve amateur communications.

I routinely use PACTOR III to test emergency communications within the State of Alaska, and removing the baud rate restrictions will allow the use PACTOR IV, providing significantly higher data throughput.

In my opinion, removing baud rate restrictions will not “increase congestion” and will instead decrease the length of time required to transmit any given message. The occupied bandwidth will not change, when moving from PACTOR III to PACTOR IV, therefore “congestion” will not increase. Message length will, in general, stay the same and it will simply take less time to transmit.

In my opinion, eliminating baud rate restrictions will benefit the amateur radio service not only by supporting faster communications during an emergency, but also by opening up the possibility for development of new modulation techniques.

In my opinion, there are no costs associated with this proposal, only benefits.

I have personally invested in specialized radio communications equipment, specifically the SCS DR-7800 modem, because of the potential for use in emergency communications.

Please do not allow the concerns of a certain Mr. Rappaport to cloud these issues.

In my opinion, his uninformed suggestions are not relevant to the symbol rate issues addressed in WT Docket No. 16-239 / RM-11708 and his concerns should instead be presented in a separate petition, crafted by his own hand, reflecting his own unique perspective.

I would like to personally thank the employees of the FCC who process these comments.

Distilling these many comments into a concise and cogent summary, suitable for FCC action, cannot be an easy process and you certainly have my gratitude and thanks!

Sincerely,

TJ Sheffield, KL7TS

Anchorage, Alaska